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"The wind was always either E. or S.E., though the upper current of clouds were N. E., like the sea breeze. I found no peculiarities in the zoological department. The channel up is circuitous, in order to substitute numerous small rapids for single great falls. There are three portages for the corial itself, and six more for the baggage alone, whereas in Massaroony to a similar elevation there is only one portage, viz., at the mouth of the Caboory Creek.

"I should suppose a line drawn W. by N. would intersect the average course of the river to the Yuruary, beyond which the Spanish authorities give it a semicircular détour to the south.

"I can find no traces of any one having preceded me in the survey of the lower part of the river. The truth is, that few corials are equal to it—and the woodskins, or bark canoes of the Indians, are so inconvenient to sit in, and carry so small a cargo, that few would attempt the ascent in them. The coloured people below are ignorant of the passages after the first day—and the Indians themselves do not know how to manage a large craft up. My former habits gave me an advantage that succeeding adventurers will hardly possess, to whom I would state that beyond all other rivers the Cuyuny is the most difficult and dangerous of ascent, and should only be attempted with craft like mine, of the very finest description, and with a crew of the native Accaway Indians of the river itself, from the *upper* part, for I would not wish my greatest enemy such a crew as I was obliged to put off with, viz., the Caribisce below the falls."

IV.—*New Group of Islands in the Pacific.*

THE following extract from the remark book of H.M.S. *Actæon*, Captain Lord Edward Russell, while on the passage from Tahiti to Pitcairn's Island, notices the discovery of a group of islands in the Dangerous Archipelago, which does not appear in any of our charts:—

"*January* 3, 1837. While standing to the N.E. we discovered land, and at 3 p.m., being within three miles of the western island, bearing N.N.W., we made out three very low wooded islands with a heavy surf on the beach and no appearance of any anchorage: the northwesternmost island appeared to be a lagoon island with a reef extending about three-quarters of a mile from its N.W. and S.E. extremes. The names we affixed to them and their positions are respectively as follow :

"Bedford Island, N.W. point,	21° 18' 30" S.	136° 38' W. of Gh.
Minto Island, centre . . .	21 23 0	136 32 —
Melbourne Island, centre	21 28 30	136 27 — "

From the accompanying chart, made by Mr. Biddlecombe, master of H.M.S. *Actæon*, it appears that the islands extend

about 13 miles in a N.W. and S.E. direction, the centre island being about 5 miles in length. No traces of inhabitants are mentioned.

The positions were determined by means of three chronometers, "going extremely well," only 7 days from Tahiti, and 8 days afterwards the *Actæon* arrived at Pitcairn's Island; so that it may be presumed that there can be but little doubt as to the correct position of the group. The current off these islands, with a light westerly wind, set E.N.E. 7 miles in 24 hours; but it varied with the wind, and usually set to the westward. On January 9th, being 60 miles south of Pitcairn's Island, during a N.W. gale of wind, the current set 34 miles east in the 24 hours.*

The *Actæon* group is in the same parallel and about 60 miles to the westward of Hood's Island.

While at Tahiti Mr. Biddlecombe received some information respecting other islands in the Dangerous Archipelago, which do not appear in our charts, from Mr. Thomas Ebrill, master of the Tahitian merchant vessel "*Amphitrite*," which had for 23 years been sailing about this Archipelago; among others † was one he named after his vessel at that time.

Maria Island (1832), lat. $22^{\circ} 5' S.$ long. $136^{\circ} W.$ of Gh., described as low and 4 miles in extent, and on which he landed in 1832.

This can be no other than the island stated to be discovered in December, 1835, by M. Denis, in lat. $21^{\circ} 59' S.$, long. $136^{\circ} 12' W.$ of Gh.‡ That island is described as 12 miles long. We are not informed of what part of the island the position is given, but if of the N.W. extremity its southern end would almost exactly coincide with the Maria Island of Mr. Ebrill in 1832, and as such therefore it is now inserted in our charts.

We may also note here that the position of

Lobos Islands is $24^{\circ} 20' N.$ $113^{\circ} 10' W.$ of Gh.

Guadalupe . . . $28^{\circ} 30' N.$ $118^{\circ} 10'$

as recently determined in the voyage of the *Tuscan*.§

* The Society is indebted to Mr. J. W. Norie for communicating information of these islands, but the above extracts are from the remark book of H. M. S. *Actæon*, kindly lent by Captain Beaufort, R.N., Hydrographer to the Admiralty.

† Another group of three islands was reported to lie $45m. W.$ by $N. \frac{1}{2} N.$ of Hood's Island, and doubtless was the same group that the *Actæon* afterwards discovered, and is described above.

‡ See Bulletin de la Société, August, 1837, and Journal R. G. S., vol. vi., p. 441. It is also the same island as that named Wright's Lagoon Island, in the Nautical Magazine, Nov. 1837.

§ See Journal, vol. vii., pp. 222 and 228.